

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a radio reception system that includes a plurality of receivers assigned to a common output device, ~~in which~~ where a first one of the receivers is designated as an audio receiver and is tuned to a frequency of a radio transmitter having a transmitter identifier code and outputs a signal received from the radio transmitter to the output device, and ~~where another~~ a second one of the receivers is designated as a search receiver, the method comprising:

stepping the search receiver through its frequency band for a frequency signal value associated with the radio ~~same~~ transmitter and determining a measure of the signal strength of the frequency signal value;

comparing the signal strength of the signal received by the search receiver and the signal strength of the signal received by the audio receiver;

tuning the search ~~audio~~ receiver to the frequency signal value if the measure of the signal strength of the frequency signal value is better than the measure of the signal strength associated with the current signal received by the audio receiver such that the search receiver is now designated the audio receiver and assumes the operation thereof and the audio receiver is now designated the search receiver and assumes the operation thereof; and

repeating the steps of stepping, comparing and tuning.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where the step of comparing includes computing the difference between ~~the~~ field strengths of the signal received by the search receiver and the signal received by the audio receiver, providing a difference signal value indicative thereof, and comparing the difference signal value to a threshold value.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, where the threshold value ~~comprises~~ a ~~fixed-predetermined~~ threshold value.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~23~~, where the threshold value is set relative to the quality of a frequency found by the search receiver.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~, where the plurality of receivers are connected together in a ring configuration~~step of tuning includes transmitting the frequency found by the search receiver to the audio receiver, and tuning the audio receiver to this frequency.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle radio reception system, comprising:

a first receiver that performs an audio receiver function by~~is-tuned~~ to receive a signal from a ~~certain~~ transmitter and providing a received signal indicative thereof and a first quality signal indicative of signal strength of the received signal; and

a second receiver that performs a search receiver function by~~is-automatically-scanned~~ through an its-associated reception range of the second receiver to identify a frequency signal value associated with the transmitter and providing a second quality signal indicative of signal strength of a signal associated with the frequency signal value;

where the first receiver compares the first quality signal and the second quality signal, and ~~tunes to the frequency signal value~~ if the second quality signal indicates a better signal quality than the first quality signal the second receiver performs the audio receiver function by tuning to the frequency signal value and the first receiver performs the search receiver function.

7. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 6, further comprising a bus to which the first and second receivers are connected and over which the first and second receivers communicate.

8. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 67, further comprising an audio processing unit coupled to the first receiver to receive the received signal and provide an output signal indicative thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 8, further comprising a controller that provides command signals to the first receiver and to the audio processing unit.

10. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 89, where the audio processing unit includes a microprocessor.

11. (Currently Amended) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 69, where the first receiver and the second receiver each include ~~their own uniquely~~ an associated antenna.

12. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 7, where the second receiver receives an identification signal over the bus indicative of the transmitter.

13. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 7, where the bus comprises a MOST bus.

14. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle radio reception system of claim 12, where the first receiver transmits the identification signal onto the bus.

15. (New) A method of operating a radio reception system that includes a plurality of receivers, the method comprising the steps of:

designating a first one of the plurality of receivers as an audio receiver and tuning the audio receiver to a frequency of a transmitter to receive a signal therefrom;

designating a second one of the plurality of receivers as a search receiver and stepping the search receiver through a frequency band for a frequency signal value associated with the transmitter and determining a signal strength of the frequency signal value;

comparing the signal strength of the frequency signal value with a signal strength of the signal received by the audio receiver; and

tuning the search receiver to the frequency signal value if the signal strength of the frequency signal value is greater than the signal strength of the signal received by the audio receiver, and where the search receiver is now designated as the audio receiver and assumes the operation thereof and the audio receiver is now designated as the search receiver and assumes the operation thereof.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, where the steps of stepping, comparing and tuning are repeated in an iterative manner.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, where the step of comparing comprises the steps of:

computing a difference between a field strength of the frequency signal value with a field strength of the signal received by the audio receiver;
providing a difference signal value indicative thereof; and
comparing the difference signal value to a threshold value.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, where the threshold value comprises a predetermined threshold value.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, where the threshold value is set relative to the quality of a frequency found by the search receiver.

20. (New) The method of claim 15, where the plurality of receivers are connected together in a ring configuration.